

RATED T+

BLACK



CAT

WILSON
MELNIKOV
REBER

FELICIA HARDY is the **BLACK CAT**, the world's slyest and most skilled super-thief! Armed with her luck-altering abilities, there's no heist she can't pull off. The longer the odds, the better!

BLACK CAT

IV. ONE OF THE BAD GUYS, I SWEAR

New York City's most dangerous super villains are taking notice of the Black Cat's super-heroics. After Ms. Marvel successfully foiled Black Cat's attempted foiling of an intergalactic drug-smuggling operation, Sandman ambushed Felicia! Now she has some explaining to do...to the Kingpin of Crime, Tombstone!

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TOMBSTONE'S SECRET LAIR.
SOMEWHERE IN
THE OUTER BOROUGH.

LISTEN. I KNOW BETTER
THAN ANYONE THAT YOUR
LUCK CAN CHANGE
IN AN **INSTANT**.

FOR
SOMEONE
WHO'S ALL OVER
THE **NEWS**, YOU'RE
A HARD LADY
TO **TRACK**
DOWN.

BUT I'M
GLAD WE **FINALLY**
GET TO HAVE A LITTLE
CHAT. I'VE BEEN WATCHING
YOUR **ESCAPADES** ON
THE **SOCIALS**--ALONG
WITH THE **REST** OF
THE WORLD.

I FEEL LIKE
I SHOULD ASK
FOR YOUR
AUTOGRAPH.

BUT AT **THIS**
POINT, EVEN **MINE**
SEEMED TO HAVE
RUN OUT.

IT'S PRETTY HARD TO
SIGN **T-SHIRTS** WITH MY
HANDS TIED BEHIND
MY BACK.

HOW BOUT
YOU **UNTIE** ME SO
WE CAN HAVE A REAL
CONVERSATION?

WHICH MEANT I HAD
NO CHOICE BUT TO SIT
AROUND AND LISTEN TO
TOMBSTONE'S HALF-BAKED
VILLAIN MONOLOGUE.

HOW BOUT
YOU TELL ME
WHERE THIS WHOLE
CRIMEFIGHTING
SHTICK IS GOING
FIRST?

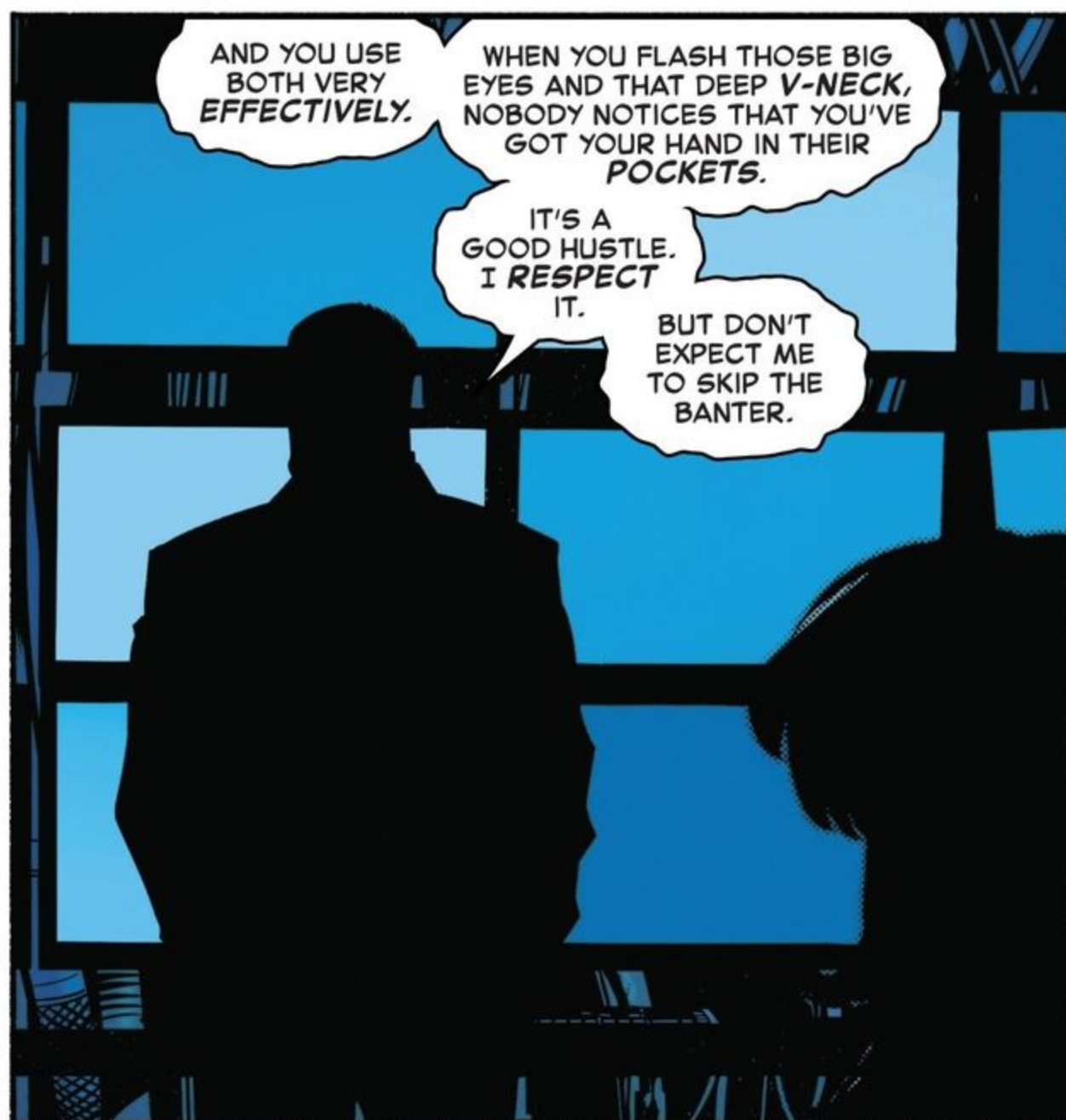
IT'S NOT A
SHTICK. NOT
THIS TIME. THIS IS
REAL. I HAD AN
EPIPHANY.

THAT'S A
BIG WORD FOR SUCH
A **SMALL KITTY**.

JUST
ONCE, I'D LOVE
TO **SKIP** THE
CONDESCENDING
CAT-RELATED
BANTER. IT'S
DEMEANING.

MORE
BIG
WORDS.

YOU
CHOSE THAT
NAME, CAT.
JUST LIKE YOU
CHOSE THAT
COSTUME.



AND YOU USE BOTH VERY EFFECTIVELY.

WHEN YOU FLASH THOSE BIG EYES AND THAT DEEP V-NECK, NOBODY NOTICES THAT YOU'VE GOT YOUR HAND IN THEIR POCKETS.

IT'S A GOOD HUSTLE. I RESPECT IT.

BUT DON'T EXPECT ME TO SKIP THE BANTER.



WE ALL USE WHATEVER *GIFTS* FATE GIVES US. I CHARM PEOPLE-- YOU *TERRIFY* THEM.

THE *DIFFERENCE* BETWEEN US IS, I DON'T *JUDGE* YOU FOR IT.



LISTEN, SHARK TEETH. I'M STILL ONE OF THE *BAD GUYS*. I *SWEAR*.

I'M JUST TRYING TO MAKE THINGS *SAFER* BY WEEDING OUT *SPLASHY AMATEURS* WHO SCARE OFF THE *NORMIES*.

WHICH USED TO BE *SPIDER-MAN'S* JOB. BUT THAT *IMPOSTOR* WEARING THE *SPIDER-SUIT* IS RUNNING SOME KIND OF *SCHEME*, I'M SURE OF IT.



UH-HUH. SURE.

AND COZYING UP TO *DAREDEVIL* IS WHAT *PART* OF YOUR LITTLE PLAN-- AN *EXTRA-CURRICULAR*?



...NO, THAT WAS JUST AN *ACCIDENT*.

IT WAS LATE AT *NIGHT*, THE CITY WAS LOOKING *ROMANTIC*, AND HE'S CLEARLY BEEN HITTING THE *GYM*--

WHERE DOES THE GUY FIND THE TIME?

DAY JOB, SUPER-HEROING AND WORKING OUT?

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH. THE BRIGHT LIGHTS, THE BIG CITY, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH.

WHAT'S THIS **REALLY** ABOUT, CATLING?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THIS **GRANDSTANDING**. PUBLICLY SWITCHING SIDES. COURTING THE **PRESS**.

IT AIN'T **LIKE** YOU.



I GUESS--

I GUESS IT FELT **GOOD**. YOU KNOW. TO BE **ADMIRED** FOR ONCE.



I MEAN, **EVERYBODY** ADMIRES ME AS SOMETHING TO LOOK AT. BUT IT FELT GOOD TO KNOW THAT PEOPLE ADMIRE ME FOR SOMETHING I **DID**.



...HUH. INTERESTING.

NO ONE'S EVER ADMIRING **ME** AS SOMETHING TO LOOK AT, I'LL TELL YOU **THAT**. BUT I THINK I GET WHAT YOU'RE **SAYING**.

EVEN THE **BADDEST** OF BAD GUYS NEEDS A **PAT** ON THE HEAD EVERY SO OFTEN.



BUT AS LONG AS YOU'RE COMMITTED TO THIS PLAN OF YOURS, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO BE MY **GUEST** HERE IN THE **OUTER BOROUGH**S FOR A WHILE.

WHAT?!



SORRY, KITTY CAT.
I CAN'T HAVE YOU OUT
THERE GETTING IN THE WAY
OF CERTAIN LONG-TERM
PROJECTS.

YOU CAN'T
KEEP ME HERE!
I HAVEN'T DONE
ANYTHING
WRONG!



EXACTLY.

THE **PROBLEM**
IS, YOU'RE DOING
TOO MANY THINGS
RIGHT.

WE THIEVES
AND LIARS ARE ALWAYS
PULLING IN **DIFFERENT**
DIRECTIONS. THAT'S WHY
WE NEVER **WIN.** WE SPEND
ALL OUR TIME GETTING
IN EACH OTHER'S
WAY.



TAKE THIS
EPIPHANY OF
YOURS.

FOR YOU,
IT'S THE START
OF A **NEW** CHAPTER.
FOR **ME**, IT'S JUST
A PAIN IN THE
ASS.



BELIEVE
ME, IT'S A
PAIN IN **MY**
ASS TOO.

COME
ON.
I'LL TAKE
YOU TO YOUR
ACCOMMODATIONS.
YOU CAN **CRY**
ABOUT IT
THERE.



IT WAS TIME TO FACE AN
EMBARRASSING REALITY.
I WAS **COOKED.**

AND DON'T
EVEN **THINK**
ABOUT PULLIN' ANY
STUNTS. WE SEARCHED
YOU FOR **WEAPONS,**
LOCKPICKS,
COMMUNICATION
DEVICES--

OKAY, OKAY.
I GET THE
PICTURE.

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
RUB IT IN,
SANDY.

BUT I DON'T THINK I
REALLY GOT THE PICTURE
UNTIL I SAW WHERE
SANDMAN WAS TAKING ME.

ARE YOU
SERIOUSLY
PUTTING ME IN A
DUNGEON?

NAH, BUT
NOW I'M GONNA
BE PICTURING YOU
IN A DUNGEON FOR
THE REST OF
THE NIGHT.

BUT IT'S LIKE
TOMBSTONE
SAID.

YOU'RE OUR
GUEST. AND
GUESTS ONLY
GET THE
BEST.

WHY ARE YOU WORKING
FOR THIS DAYTIME-TV
MONSTER ANYWAY?

I THOUGHT YOU
WERE **RETHINKING**
YOUR LIFE. I'M NOT THE
ONLY ONE WHO GETS
EPIPHANIES.

YEAH. SURE.
BUT THE THING ABOUT
EPIPHANIES, BC,
IS THEY DON'T PAY
THE RENT.

A GUY'S GOTTA
EAT. AND THINGS
ARE **BAD** OUT THERE,
LIKE I'M SURE YOU'VE
NOTICED.

CREEAAK!

HERE
YA GO.

THE
**PRESIDENTIAL
SUITE**. BEST
ROOM IN THE
HOUSE.

...YEAH.
I CAN SEE
THAT.

THE VIBE
IS VERY...
PUNGENT.



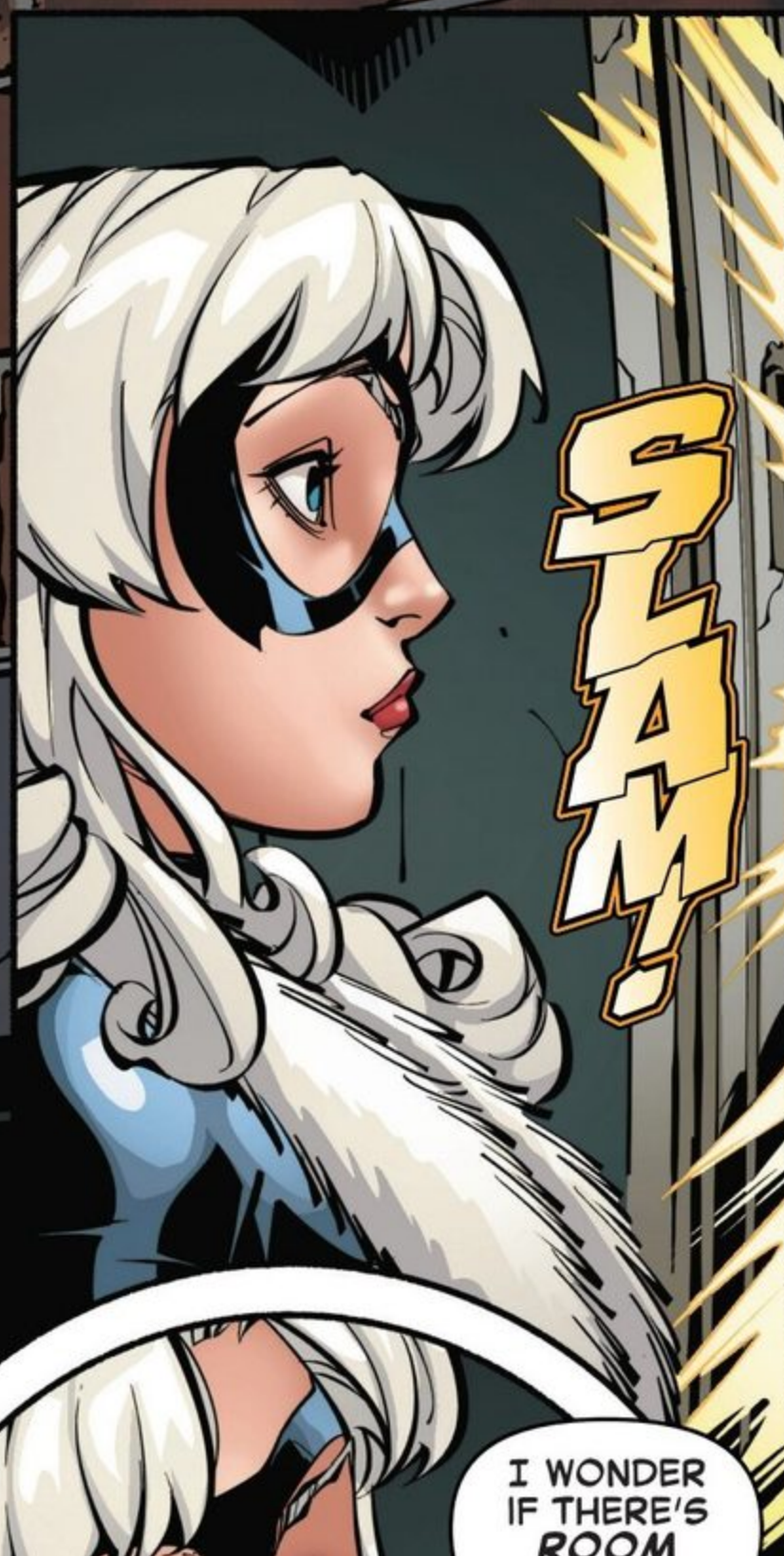
NOW IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, JUST SHOUT--

--ACTUALLY DON'T SHOUT, 'CAUSE NO ONE HEARS OR CARES.



NIGHTY-NIGHT, ALLEY CAT.

GO TO HELL.



SLAM!



I WONDER IF THERE'S ROOM SERVICE.

AND I'M ONLY GIVING THIS VIEW *ONE STAR*. YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE THE *EMPIRE STATE BUILDING* FROM HERE.

I WAS HOPING THEY *FORGOT* SOMETHING--A LOOSE WINDOW BAR, AN HVAC VENT JUST BIG ENOUGH FOR A CAT--BUT YOU'D HAVE TO BE MADE OF *SMOKE* TO GET OUT OF HERE--



--CHECKED THE LOCKS?

HUH?

YEAH. SHE AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE. WE'RE GOOD.



SHE'S ONTO IT, BOSS. THE SPIDER-MAN THING.

SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING. SHE'S JUST GUESSING.

IF SHE KNEW SPIDER-MAN WAS SHAKING US DOWN FOR CASH, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE GONE OUT CHASING INTERSTELLAR SMUGGLERS IN JERSEY.

WHAT IF SHE GETS TO HIS MONEY FIRST?

GET TO FRONT STREET AND SHE WON'T. WHY DO YOU THINK I'M KEEPING HER HERE?



I KNEW IT.

THAT SO-CALLED SPIDER-MAN ISN'T FIGHTING CRIME AT ALL--HE'S SKIMMING OFF THE TOP FOR HIMSELF.

I CAN'T STAY LOCKED UP IN HERE. I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING.



THIS IMPOSTOR IS TRADING ON ALL THE GOODWILL PETER'S BUILT UP OVER THE YEARS AND USING IT TO LINE HIS OWN POCKETS.



AND I'M STUCK IN THIS RAT-HOLE!



WHAT'S
THE
USE?

NO GOOD
DEED GOES
UNPUNISHED.
I GUESS I'M LEARNING
THE **HARD** WAY.
AS **USUAL.**

ALL THE **SIGNS** WERE
THERE. WARNING ME TO
STAY IN MY **LANE.**

EVERYBODY
HAS THEIR PLACE
IN THE **SYSTEM.**
EVERYBODY HAS THEIR
ROLE TO PLAY. IT
NEVER ENDS WELL FOR
THE PEOPLE WHO
TRY TO **SHAKE**
THINGS UP.

BUT
SOMEHOW,
I THOUGHT
IT WOULD BE
DIFFERENT
FOR ME.

YOU'D THINK SOMEONE
WITH THE POWER TO
CHANGE LUCK WOULD HAVE
BETTER LUCK CHANGING
HER OWN.

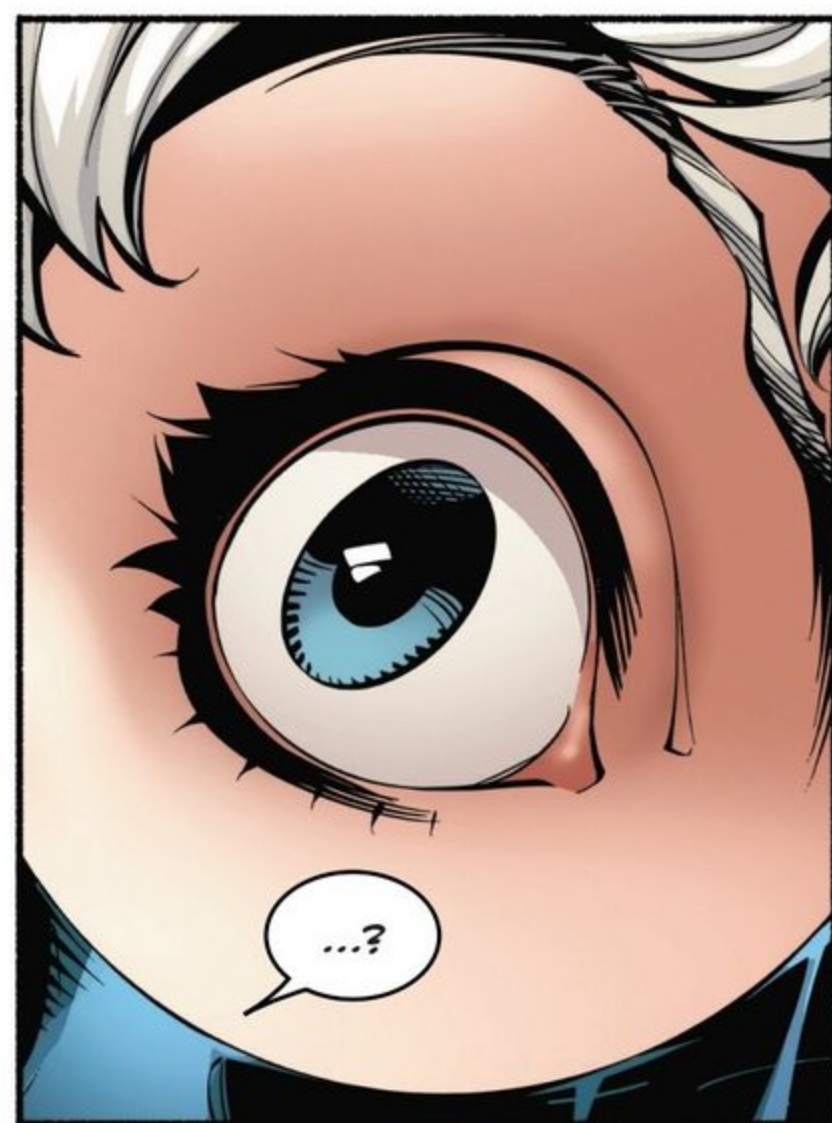
BUT WHAT
ALWAYS GETS **ME** INTO
TROUBLE ISN'T **LUCK**
AT ALL. IT'S MY OWN
DAMN **EGO.**

SO GIVE
ME THE
REALLY BAD
LUCK!

THE LUCK
I **DESERVE!**
SO BAD IT GETS
ME **OUT** OF
HERE AND INTO
SOMETHING
WORSE!

...I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHO I THOUGHT
MIGHT BE
LISTENING.

LATER THAT NIGHT.



POOF!

LOVELY.

I GO THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE TO TRACK YOU DOWN, AND YOU CAN'T EVEN BE BOTHERED TO **GREET** ME WITH THE PROPER **REVERENCE**.

...COUNT...
WHAT'S-HIS-NAME?!

IT'S **BARON ALEXANDER RAZUMOVSKY**, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

WHAT A **SHABBY** LITTLE ROOM. IF I WERE YOU, I WOULD COMPLAIN TO THE **MANAGER**.

WATCH IT. THIS IS THE **PRESIDENTIAL SUITE**.

WHAT ARE YOU **DOING** HERE ANYWAY? DON'T YOU HAVE **PEASANTS** TO KICK?

SO GLAD YOU **ASKED**.

I'M HERE TO SERVE YOU WITH A **LAWSUIT**.

A **WHAT?!**

YOU **INTERFERED** WITH MY BUSINESS VENTURE, COSTING ME A GREAT DEAL OF **MONEY**. I AM HERE TO **RECOUP** MY EXPENSES THROUGH THE **HIGH COURT OF ACCRETIONS**.

FOR A MINUTE, I
COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT
I WAS HEARING. HOW HAD
A COUPLE OF NIGHTS OF
CRIMEFIGHTING GOTTEN
ME INTO THIS MUCH
TROUBLE?

AND WHAT THE
HELL WAS THE
**HIGH COURT OF
ACCRETIONS?**

BUT THEN
IT **HIT** ME.
THIS WAS IT.
THIS. WAS IT.



MY WAY
OUT OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL
SUITE.

MMM--

WHAT
WAS **THAT**
FOR?

BARON
ALEXANDER,
YOU'RE MY
**BAD-LUCK
CHARM.**

LISTEN.
I NEED YOU TO
LEAVE THE WAY YOU
CAME IN AND GO
FIND SOMEONE
FOR ME.

WHAT?
WHY?

SO I
CAN GET
OUT OF
HERE.

AND WHY
WOULD I
HELP YOU DO
THAT?

YOU WANT
YOUR **MONEY**
BACK, RIGHT?

WELL, THE
ONLY WAY YOU'RE
GETTING PAID IS
IF I WALK OUT OF
HERE A **FREE** WOMAN.
OTHERWISE, YOUR
**HIGH COURT OF
ACCRETIONS** WILL
HAVE TO TAKE IT
UP WITH
TOMBSTONE.



WHO IS **TOMBSTONE**?

HE'S THAT **PALE** GUY WITH THE **POINTY TEETH** YOU PROBABLY PASSED ON YOUR WAY IN.

PALE AND POINTY? IS HE **ALSO** A VAMPIRE?

HE'D PROBABLY **LIKE** TO BE. DO YOU GUYS TAKE APPLICATIONS?



IF YOU'RE TRYING TO **WRIGGLE** OUT OF THIS, YOU'RE MAKING A **MISTAKE**. I'M **400** YEARS OLD. I HAVE A **LONG** MEMORY.

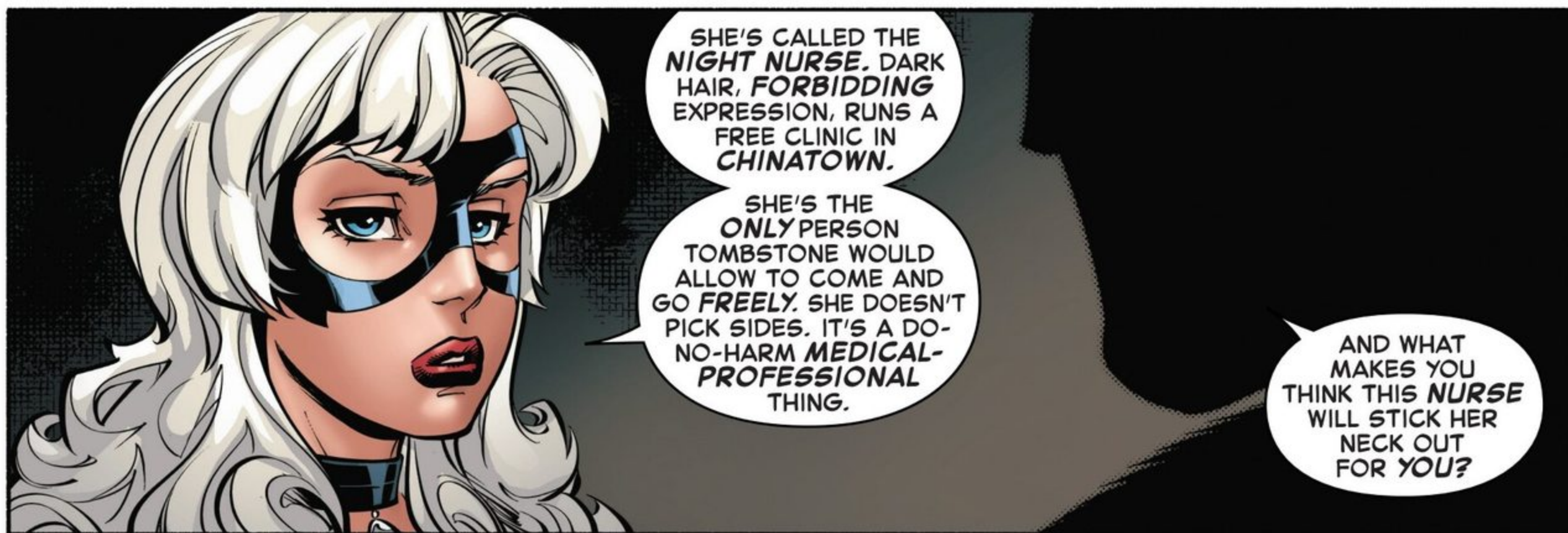
IF I **SWEAR** I'LL SHOW UP TO ANSWER TO YOUR CHARGES, WILL YOU AGREE TO **HELP** ME?



...FINE.

YAY!

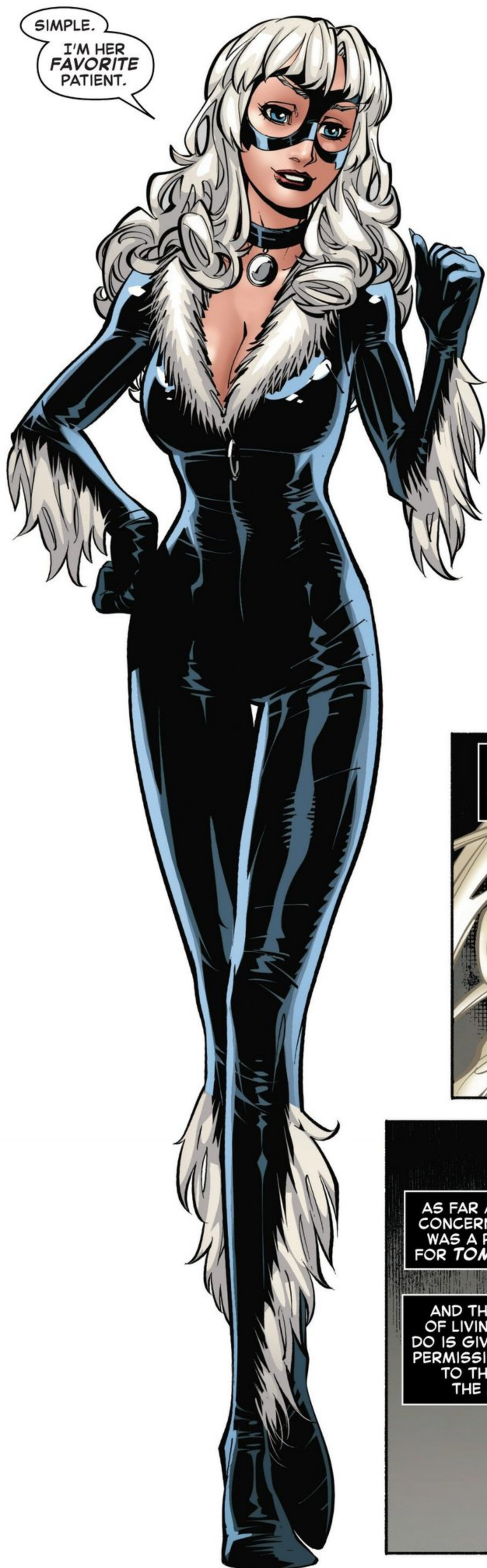
AND **WHO** WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO BRING TO **FREE** YOU FROM THIS **ONE-STAR** ESTABLISHMENT?



SHE'S CALLED THE **NIGHT NURSE**. DARK HAIR, **FORBIDDING** EXPRESSION, RUNS A FREE CLINIC IN **CHINATOWN**.

SHE'S THE **ONLY** PERSON **TOMBSTONE** WOULD ALLOW TO COME AND GO **FREELY**. SHE DOESN'T PICK SIDES. IT'S A **DO-NO-HARM MEDICAL-PROFESSIONAL** THING.

AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THIS **NURSE** WILL STICK HER NECK OUT FOR YOU?



SIMPLE.
I'M HER
FAVORITE
PATIENT.



YOU OWE
ME ONE,
MS. CAT.

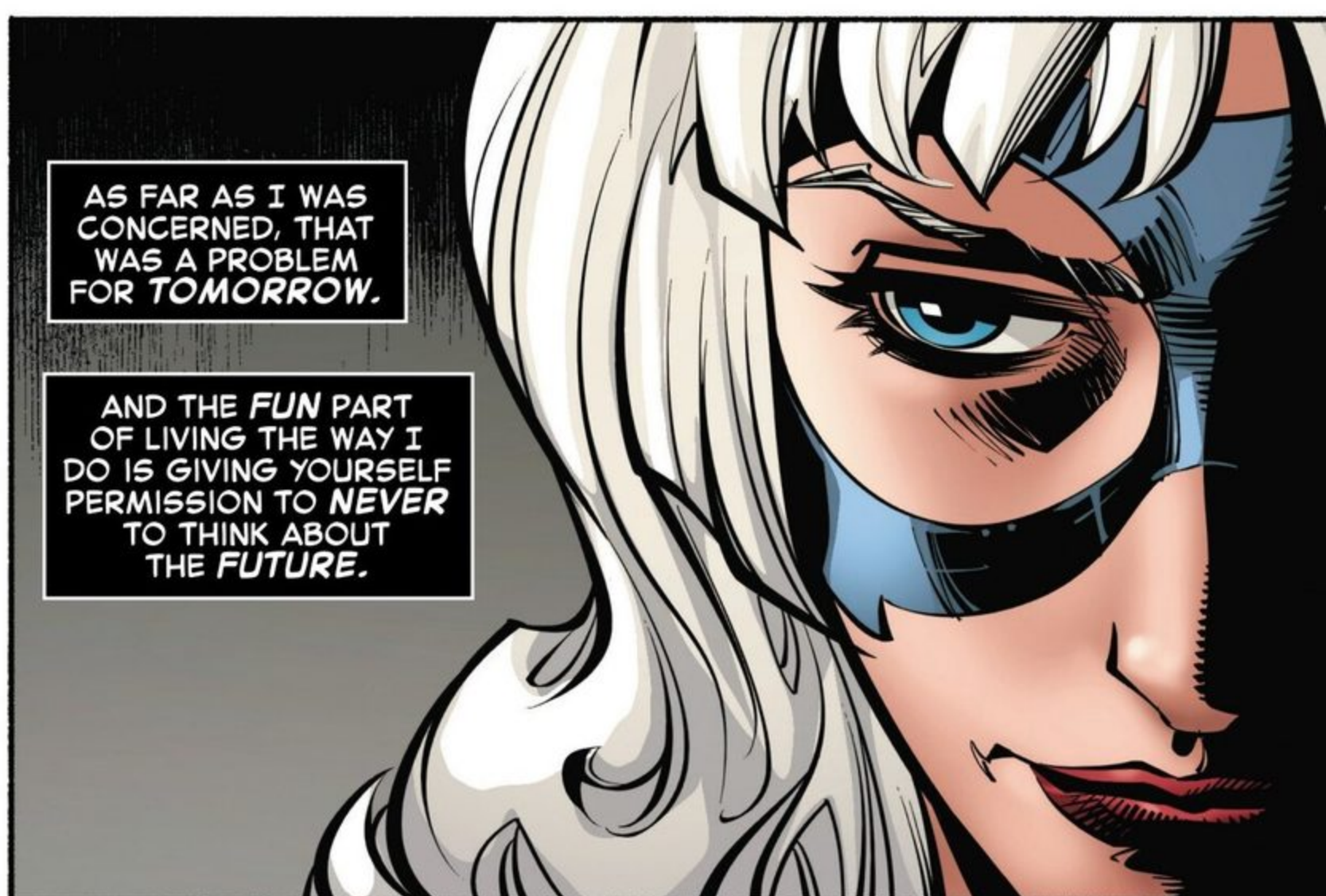
IN ADDITION
TO WHAT YOU
ALREADY
OWED ME.

TOTALLY.
COMPLETELY.
I HEAR YOU.
PLEASE JUST MOVE
IT BEFORE THEY HEAR
US TALKING
IN HERE.



DID I ACTUALLY
UNDERSTAND WHAT IT
MEANT TO BE IN DEBT
TO A VAMPIRE?

NOT
REALLY.



AS FAR AS I WAS
CONCERNED, THAT
WAS A PROBLEM
FOR TOMORROW.

AND THE FUN PART
OF LIVING THE WAY I
DO IS GIVING YOURSELF
PERMISSION TO NEVER
TO THINK ABOUT
THE FUTURE.









DAWN.
SOMEWHERE
IN BROOKLYN.



THIS IS THE RIGHT
INTERSECTION...
THE QUESTION IS...
WHICH HOUSE?

AND WHAT
GAME IS THIS
SPIDER-IMPOSTOR
PLAYING? WHAT MAKES HIM
THINK HE CAN SHAKE DOWN
SOME OF THE **NASTIEST**
HUSTLERS IN NEW YORK
AND GET AWAY
WITH IT?



HUH. FRESH
NAILS. THERE
ARE STILL WOOD
SHAVINGS
AROUND THEM.

SOMEONE'S
BEEN IN HERE VERY
RECENTLY...



MIGHT AS WELL START
WITH **THIS** ONE,
I GUESS.



PAF!



CLICK!





HELLO?
ANYBODY
HOME?
IT'S YOUR
FRIENDLY
NEIGHBORHOOD
CAT LADY--
I'M HERE TO
RUIN YOUR
DAY--



HUH.
FOR A
STASH HOUSE THAT
YOUR ENEMIES ALREADY
KNOW ABOUT, THIS
PLACE IS **POORLY**
GUARDED.



I SHOULD HAVE SET OFF
AT **LEAST TWO BOOBY**
TRAPS BY NOW.

MAYBE **FAKER-MAN**
HAS ALREADY COLLECTED
HIS TOYS AND GONE
HOME.



...OR
MAYBE
NOT.



TWO QUESTIONS
SPRANG TO MIND:

WHOA.

ONE, WHAT EXACTLY DOES
THE **SPIDER-IMPOSTOR**
HAVE ON **TOMBSTONE** THAT
COULD CONVINCE HIM TO FORK
OVER THIS MUCH **CASH**?



TWO, IF THIS IS
SKIMMING OFF THE
TOP, HOW MUCH CASH
DOES TOMBSTONE
HAVE?!

BUT OF COURSE,
THESE WERE
THE **WRONG**
QUESTIONS.

POLICE!
PUT YOUR
HANDS BEHIND
YOUR HEAD--
NOW!

BECAUSE I
HAD JUST BEEN
SET UP.

**NEXT: AT LEAST EIGHT
OF MY NINE LIVES**

SPIDERS & SYMBIOTES

THE LOWE-DOWN

WEB-HEADS!

As we enter into the most grateful month of the year, the Spider-Office has a lot to be thankful for. JOE KELLY is writing one of the most emotional runs of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ever and issues #15 and #16 are no exception and I got teary-eyed reading them both!!! You have a chance for space tears from Joe and EMILIO LAISO in ASM #15 and Earth tears with Joe and JOHN ROMITA JR. on ASM #16! We're very grateful to CHARLES SOULE, JESÚS SAIZ and JUANAN RAMÍREZ for their awesome

EDDIE BROCK: CARNAGE run, which ends with this month's issue #10. It's a sick (in all meanings) book, and we are going to miss it. Lastly, but not leastly, I'm thankful for the *Predator: Badlands* movie and the incredible P:B prequel comic that Spider-Associate Editor MARTIN BIRO, ETHAN SACKS and ELVIN CHING are doing in league with our friends at 20th Century! We're also full of gratitude for you Web-Heads!

Keep Thwippin',
Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor



NEED YOUR SPIDER-FIX WHILE YOU WAIT FOR NEXT ISSUE?

THWP-LIST

- AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #15
- MARVEL KNIGHTS: THE WORLD TO COME #4
- MILES MORALES: SPIDER-MAN #40

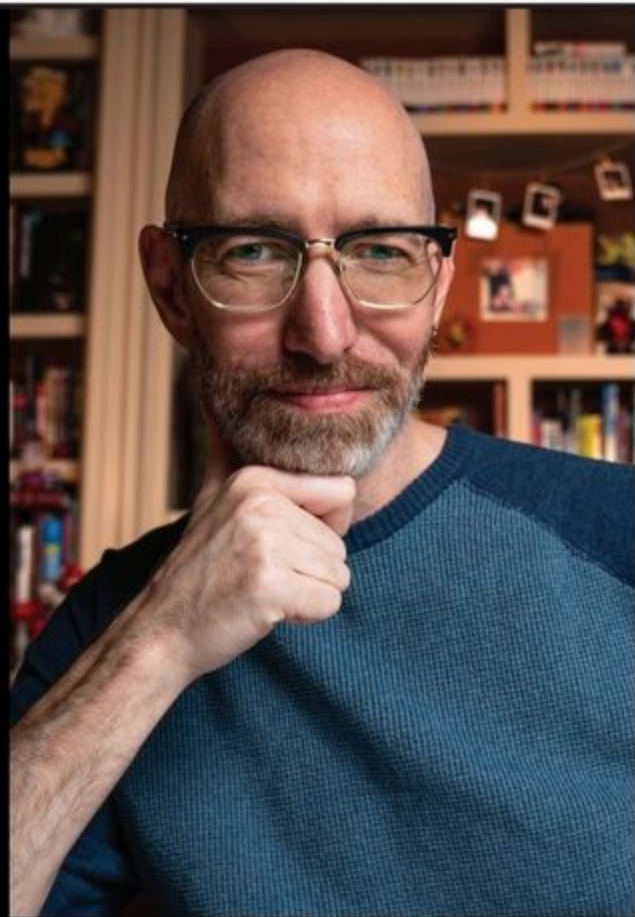


- AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: TORN #2
- EDDIE BROCK: CARNAGE #10
- MARVEL KNIGHTS: PUNISHER #2
- SPIDER-GIRL #6
- SPIDER-MAN NOIR #2



- VENOM #251
- ALL-NEW SPIDER-GWEN: THE GHOST-SPIDER #4
- AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #16
- RADIOACTIVE SPIDER-MAN #2
- BLACK CAT #4
- CLOAK OR DAGGER #2
- MARVEL ZOMBIES: RED BAND #3

THIS MONTH'S HOST



NAME: Joe Kelly... Joltin' Joseph Kelly the Calamitous is my given name.

TITLE: Peter Parker's therapist and sometimes writer of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

WORKS ON:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN...ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?!

WHO IS YOUR IRL SUPER HERO?

My wife! <cue the sappy music> She is a school counselor who has helped literally thousands of kids through incredibly challenging life stuff. And she puts up with my nonsense. Amazing human being.

WHICH SPIDER-MAN VILLAIN DO YOU MOST RESONATE WITH?

On good days, the Rhino--put your head down and charge through whatever's in front of you. On bad days, I have to keep my inner Carnage at bay.

IF YOU COULD GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF ONE PIECE OF ADVICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Trust your gut and be true to yourself, especially when it feels scary.

EMERALD BENSADOUN, KAITLYN LINDTVEDT & KAEDEN MCGAHEY - Assistant Editors
MARTIN BIRO & TOM GRONEMAN - Associate Editors JORDAN D. WHITE - Senior Editor
NICK LOWE - Executive Editor

**PANEL OF
THE MONTH:**
INFERNAL HULK #1,
page 24, panel 2
art by NIC KLEIN



EDGE OF THE VARIANT-VERSE



We in the Spider-Office are no stranger to variants--we've got a Spider-Verse full of 'em. It's hard to narrow it down, but check out our favorite variant cover of the month.

BLACK CAT #4
Street-Verse Variant Cover
by INHYUK LEE



GAMMA CORNER

IS HE SPIDER, OR IS HE SYMBIOTE...OR IS HE NEITHER?



INFERNAL HULK #1
On sale 11/26

The Hulk is dead...long live the **INFERNAL HULK**! At long last, Bruce Banner has been forcibly separated from the Hulk and is free to live a normal life. But the Hulk has been possessed by the supernatural force known as the ELDEST and transformed into something even more monstrous. Can Bruce--and the world--survive?

SHE-HULK is back, and she's...stuck on Sakaar?! Spinning out of Jonathan Hickman's cosmic epic, **IMPERIAL**, She-Hulk is now in charge of keeping the peace on an alien planet at war!



PLANET SHE-HULK #1
On sale 11/5

NEXT



#5
ON SALE:
12/17/25